

Senate Resolution 260

By: Senator Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and Congress of the United States to support legislative efforts
2 amending the United States Constitution to incorporate the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on February 26, 1869, Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment of the United
5 States Constitution giving African American men the equal right to vote and on February 3,
6 1870, this amendment was ratified by the states; and

7 WHEREAS, nearly a century later, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1960 allowing
8 African Americans whose voter registration had previously been rejected by local election
9 officials to apply to a federal court or voting referee; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1964, poll taxes were outlawed with the adoption of the Twenty-fourth
11 Amendment and Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, making it illegal to
12 discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, and gender in voting, public
13 places, the workplace, and schools; and

14 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law August 6, 1965, in direct response
15 to the mounting violence and state disfranchisement throughout the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the Act codifies and effectuates the Fifteenth Amendment's guarantee that "the
17 right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United
18 States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude"; and

19 WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, 250,000 new African American voters were registered to
20 vote, one-third of them by federal examiners; and

21 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act was reenacted in 1970, 1975, 1982, and 2006 and is
22 considered to be the most successful piece of civil rights legislation ever adopted by the
23 United States Congress; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2002, the "Help America Vote Act of 2002" was passed to improve the
25 administration of elections in the United States, by creating a new federal agency to serve as
26 a clearinghouse for election administration information, providing funds to states to improve
27 election administration and replace outdated voting systems, and creating minimum
28 standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration; and

29 WHEREAS, it is vital that the fundamental right to vote be guaranteed for all citizens of the
30 United States and therefore the principles of universal voting equality established in the
31 Voting Rights Act should be added to the United States Constitution with an amendment.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that members of this body
33 urge the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that will provide for
34 an amendment incorporating the Voting Rights Act into the United States Constitution.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama and each
37 member of the Georgia congressional delegation.